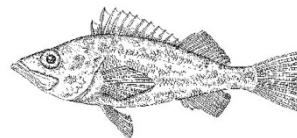

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake St. Room 103
Sitka, AK 99835
Date: January 27, 2012
Time: 2:30 p.m.

2012 WINTER DEMERSAL SHELF ROCKFISH FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka...The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today the following information regarding the 2012 Southeast Outside (SEO) directed Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR) commercial fishery. The seven species in the DSR assemblage are yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, China, tiger, and rosethorn rockfish.

The directed fishery will open in the East Yakutat (EYKT), Central Southeast Outside (CSEO), and Southern Southeast Outside (SSEO) Sections at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 1, 2012. These areas will remain open until harvest allocations are taken or 4:00 p.m. on March 16, 2011, whichever occurs first. Fishermen are reminded that the waters of Sitka Sound and the Edgecumbe Pinnacles Marine Reserve are closed to directed fishing for DSR [5AAC 28.150 (c) and (d)(1)]. The directed fishery will remain closed in the Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section (see attached map). For information regarding the 2012 directed DSR fishery in the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistricts, refer to the ADF&G news release issued on December 30, 2011.

The 2012 Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for DSR in the SEO Subdistrict is 646,065 round lb (293 mt). The ABC is 2% of the biomass of yelloweye rockfish as determined by the most recent assessment with an additional 2% added for the harvest of other species in this rockfish assemblage. After the deduction of the 2012 DSR subsistence harvest estimate (15,435 round lb or 7 mt), 5AAC 28.160 (c)(1)(A) allocates the DSR TAC as follows: 84% (529,200 round lb or 240 mt) to commercial fisheries and 16% (101,430 round lb or 46 mt) to recreational fisheries. This commercial quota is then apportioned by management area based on the contribution of that area to the overall biomass. The quota remaining for the directed commercial fishery for DSR is set after deductions for DSR bycatch mortality in other fisheries and test fisheries are made. Areas are opened to directed fishing if it is determined that there is enough available resource to conduct an orderly fishery and if there are no area-specific conservation concerns. NSEO does not have enough directed commercial quota available to conduct an orderly directed fishery in 2012.

Harvest Quotas for the Directed DSR Fishery		
Area	Round lb	Metric ton (mt)
EYKT	81,144	36.8
CSEO	86,436	39.2
SSEO	114,881	52.1

General Provisions

Fishermen are required to register their vessel with ADF&G prior to participating in the winter directed DSR fishery. Vessels that previously registered to fish in NSEI or SSEI in 2012 must re-register if they plan to fish in the EYKT, CSEO, or SSEO fisheries. Logbooks are required and a copy of the logbook pages detailing a landing must be attached to the fish ticket at the time of that landing. Fishermen are required to report location of catch by set in latitude and longitude for start and ending positions, amount of gear (skates and hooks), depth of each set, and amount of catch per set by species. Logbooks are available at ADF&G area offices.

In the Southeast District, DSR may be taken in the directed fishery by longline, hand troll, dinglebar troll, and mechanical jig gear. A Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) "Y" interim use permit is required for the DSR directed fishery. In the CSEO and SSEO Sections, a vessel or CFEC permit holder may not sell more than 6,000 pounds (bled weight) of DSR in any five-day period. Permit holders or vessels fishing in EYKT may not sell more than 12,000 pounds of DSR in any five-day period. Full retention of all DSR is required. All DSR taken in excess of trip limits by a vessel or CFEC permit holder in any five-day period must be weighed and reported as overage on an ADF&G fish ticket and all proceeds from the sale of rockfish in excess of legal limits shall be surrendered to the state. DSR taken in federal waters in excess of trip limits may be retained for personal use or donated but may not be sold or enter commerce.

Vessels fishing for groundfish in federal waters must have a Federal Fisheries Permit. For information on federal permits contact NOAA Fisheries at 800-304-4846 or 907-586-7202. Fishermen are reminded that there are four federal Coral Habitat Protection areas on the Fairweather Grounds in EYKT and one near Cape Ommaney in the CSEO Section that are closed to all fishing with bottom contact gear. Information on federal Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC), including coral protection areas, may be found at: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/frules/71fr36694.pdf> (refer to Table 26 to Part 679). For questions regarding federal regulations or bycatch allowances, contact NOAA enforcement at 907-586-7225.

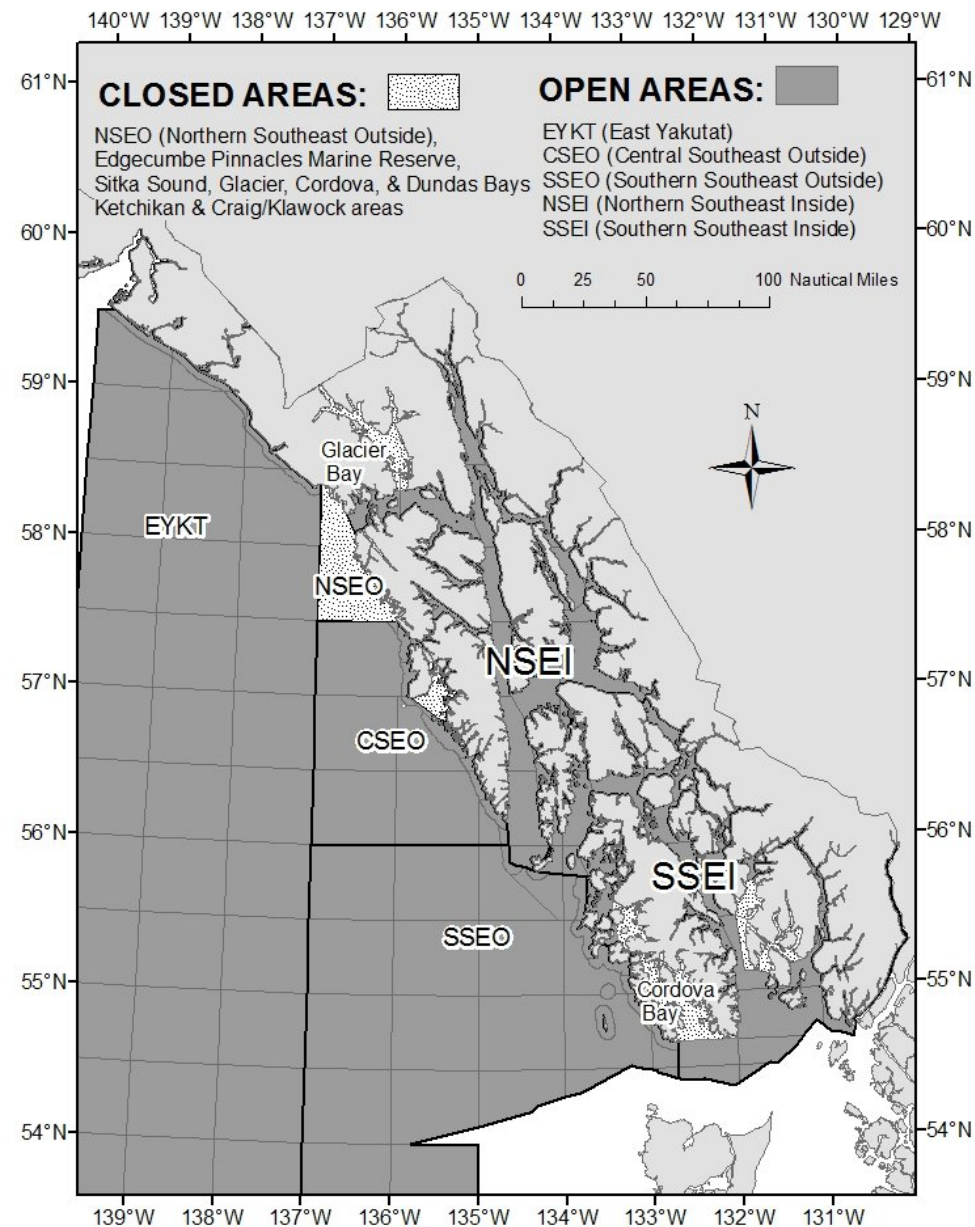
Bycatch Provisions

State waters (0-3 miles) bycatch provisions for DSR longline and jig permits are listed in the following table. All bycatch is calculated round weight against the round weight of the DSR sold. Bycatch allowances in state waters match federal waters allowances unless otherwise noted.

BYCATCH SPECIES	EYKT, CSEO, SSEO
Lingcod	Longline fishery- 35%, 27" minimum size limit Jig fishery- 0%
Shortraker and Rougheye Rockfish	7% in aggregate, Bycatch only
Black, Blue, and Dark Rockfish	15% in aggregate, Bycatch only Full retention required for black rockfish
Other Rockfish and Thornyhead	15% in aggregate, Bycatch only
Dusky, Widow, and Yellowtail Rockfish	Open to directed fishing in Federal waters only (with LLP license and CFEC Misc Finfish permit)
Pacific cod	20%, Open to directed fishing with Misc Finfish permit (and LLP license in Federal waters)
Dogfish	State waters Longline fishery- 35%, Bycatch only State waters Jig fishery- 20%, Bycatch only *Federal waters- 20% in aggregate with "Other Species"
Other Groundfish	State waters- 20%, Bycatch only *Federal waters- see Table 10 for Retainable Percentages

*view Federal Retainable Percentages (Table 10) at: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/rr/tables/tabl10.pdf>

Catch and effort will be closely monitored and area closures may occur on short notice. Closures will be announced by news release and on the United States Coast Guard "Notice to Mariners" report and the National Weather Service broadcast. Closure updates will also be available on the Groundfish Hotline at 907-747-4882.



This map is for general reference only.
EYKT, CSEO, and SSEO open to directed fishing for DSR at 9:00 a.m. on Feb. 1, 2012.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Yakutat
ADFG	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220